



**FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# FOCUS ON FRANCONIA

**June/July 2008**

## National Night Out 2008



### Dates to Remember:

- June 5th World Environment Day
- June 14th Flag Day
- June 15th Father's Day
- June 20th First Day of Summer
- July 4th Independence Day
- July 27th Parents' Day

Neighborhoods throughout Fairfax County are invited to join with thousands of communities nationwide on Tuesday, August 5th, to participate in the 25th Annual National Night Out.

National Night Out is designed to:

Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness

Generate support and participation in crime prevention efforts

Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations

Send the message that your neighborhood is a safe place to live

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens, law enforcement and other public safety officials to join forces. Events are planned to promote crime prevention and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen the police - community partnership. We encourage neighborhoods to come together and send the message that we are all working together to prevent crime and keep our neighborhoods safe. On August 5th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, EMS, and fire fighters. Please contact the Crime Prevention Office at (703)922-8263 or email [Alice.Eggers@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Alice.Eggers@fairfaxcounty.gov)  
More information [email-info@natw.org](mailto:email-info@natw.org) or 1-800-NITE-OUT

**Working Together to make our Communities Safer**



### Inside this Issue:

*National Night Out 2008*

*Crime Prevention  
GPS and Electronic Devices  
Crime Wave*

*Fireworks County Code*

*Fireworks Safety*

*Fireworks Safety continued*

*What to do when you get  
stopped by the Police*

*My Neighborhood*

*Franconia CAC*

*Police Department Pro-  
grams*



# Crime Prevention

## The GPS and Electronic Devices Crime Wave

Never leave valuable items in your vehicle. That cellular phone, loose coins/money in the ashtray, laptop computer, briefcase, etc. can be easily taken by smashing the window. Consider removing all potential valuables from your vehicle's interior and trunk. If you have to place valuables in the trunk, be mindful that others may be watching you place these items inside the trunk.

Avoid leaving items in your vehicle that contain your personal information (mail, check stubs, check books, passports, etc.). An increasing number of vehicle thefts are committed for the purpose of obtaining goods and personal information for committing identity theft

- If you see someone suspicious lingering in the area, notify your local police district station.
- If you have a garage, park your car inside. Don't leave it outside overnight where it is more susceptible to theft, burglary and vandalism. Lock your car even when it is in the garage, and keep your keys in a secure place in your home.
- Do not keep your registration, pink slip or any other personal information in your vehicle. You should keep a copy of your registration and insurance card in your purse or wallet, but not inside your car where it can be stolen.
- Do not leave your garage door remote control inside your vehicle. If someone burglarizes your car, they can steal it, enter your garage and to your home, .

It's very difficult to trace GPS devices, satellite radios and MP3 players. They're designed to be portable. It's obviously one of the benefits, and one of the pitfalls when they're stolen.

Thefts from Motor Vehicles tend to pick up during the summer months.

GPS devices, satellite radios and MP3 players are like leaving \$400 of your own cash on the dashboard. It's a crime of opportunity. Whoever's stealing them is going to where they can find vehicles, and that's any parking lot. Even people who take their GPS gadgets off their dashboards when they leave their cars are returning to find windows smashed, as thieves gamble that an empty plastic cradle suction-cupped to the windshield means a GPS unit has been hidden somewhere in the car.

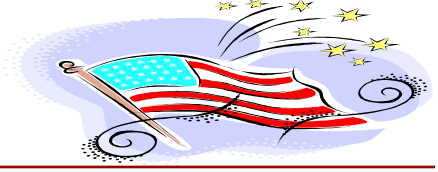
Also remember just taking the plastic cradle off the windshield might not be enough if the suction cup leaves a ring of film on the glass. That alone can signal a thief. Use moist towelettes, to remove the tell tale rings.



**Call 9-1-1 for Life-Threatening Emergencies ~ Call 703-691-2131 for non-emergencies**



## Did you know?



**F-3100.2 Definitions.** a. *Fireworks means and include any article, device, or any substance or combination of substances designed for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, explosion, deflagration or detonation, regardless of its name or form of construction. Fireworks means and include any item, substance or thing, of whatever form or construction that contains any explosive or inflammable compound or substance, and is intended, or commonly known, as fireworks and which explodes, rises into the air or travels laterally, or fires projectiles into the air. This definition also includes any substance or thing of whatever form of construction containing nitrates, chlorates, oxalates, sulphides of lead, barium, antimony, nitro-glycerine, phosphorus or any other explosive or flammable compound or substance*

**F-3101.2 Permissible fireworks.** The provisions of F-3101.1 shall not apply to fireworks which have been approved by the Fire Marshal's Office. Such permissible fireworks shall have a hard-coated or slow-burning fuse at least 1.5 inches long with a burning rate of not less than 4 seconds. Such permissible fireworks shall be used only on private property with the approval of the owner. Any fireworks that explode or that emit flame or sparks to a distance greater than 12 feet or perform as a projectile or have a quick match fuse are prohibited. The sale or storage of any fireworks shall be prohibited on the property of another without the express written permission of the owner. The sale of fireworks to minors shall be prohibited unless the minor is accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or responsible adult.

## What does this all mean?

Any firework, which explodes, emits a flame or sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile is prohibited by the Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code. A permit is required for the sale of all fireworks, and these permits are only valid from June 1 to July 15 of each year.

Many fireworks are not available in Northern Virginia because they are illegal. Firecrackers, cherry bombs and sky-rockets are just a few examples of fireworks which may be purchased in other areas, but are illegal here. Since even the possession of unapproved fireworks is prohibited in Fairfax County, such fireworks will be confiscated and the person possessing them can be charged with a Class 1 misdemeanor. This carries a maximum penalty of a \$2,500 fine and/or one-year in jail.

**F-3104.1 Seizure and destruction of certain fireworks.** Any Fairfax County law enforcement officer arresting any person for a violation of this Chapter shall seize the fireworks in question in the possession or under the control of any person so arrested and shall hold the same until final disposition of any criminal proceedings against such person. If any such person is found guilty of any violation of this Chapter, then the court shall order destruction of such articles upon expiration of the time allowed for appeal of such conviction. Any Fire Marshal encountering fireworks in violation of the Code shall seize such fireworks and shall hold such until final disposition of any criminal procedures related to the violation. If any person is found guilty of any violation of this Chapter, then the court shall order destruction of such articles upon expiration of the time allowed for appeal for such conviction.



[http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fireworks/app\\_fw\\_list.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/prevention/fireworks/app_fw_list.pdf)



Fireworks are an American tradition. They can provide hours of wholesome, family entertainment, but must be used by adults carefully and safely. To insure the safety of both the audience and those lighting the fireworks, we recommend that you obey the following fireworks safety measures during your fireworks display.

#### **1. CHILDREN SHOULD NOT HANDLE FIREWORKS.**

NEVER LET CHILDREN HANDLE, PLAY WITH, OR LIGHT ANY FIREWORKS. ONLY ADULTS SHOULD HANDLE AND LIGHT THE FIREWORKS. The fireworks are great family fun, but they burn very hot and are intended to be handled only by adults.

#### **2. DO NOT USE ALCOHOL WITH FIREWORKS.**

Please do not consume any alcohol while lighting or handling any fireworks. Fireworks must be used only by individuals who act in a responsible manner and who are not under the influence of alcohol or drugs. If you are impaired in any way when you use fireworks, you increase the possibilities of misuse and injury to yourself and others.

#### **3. FOLLOW THE LAWS; USE COMMON SENSE**

Follow your local and state laws regarding the possession and use of fireworks, and use good common sense when using fireworks. Read all directions, cautions, labels, and warnings on each individual firework item to understand the product performance and hazards associated with the use of the item. If your state has shooters' sites, use them. Use only those fireworks permitted under the laws of the state and local jurisdiction in which you are using the fireworks.

#### **4. USE FIREWORKS ON A HARD SURFACE.**

Always light fireworks on a hard, flat, and level surface to insure the stability of the items. Grass is generally not suitable for any item intended to be used in an upright position. (If lighting fireworks on grass, lay down a flat wooden board for a shooting surface.)

#### **5. USE IN A CLEAR, OPEN AREA.**

Always keep the audience (and particularly children) a safe distance away from the shooting site. Always light your fireworks in a clear open area away from buildings, vehicles, and shrubbery. A minimum clear radius of 30 feet for fountains and other ground based items and 100 yards for any aerial product is recommended. You should avoid lighting the fireworks in any area where there is dry grass or brush that could catch fire or near any flammable items. Never use fireworks indoors. Never shoot fireworks in metal or glass containers.

#### **6. KEEP CLEAR OF THE FIREWORKS.**

Never put your head or any part of your body over the top of any fireworks product. Never look into a tube to check on the firework item. Never hold a lighted firework item in your hand. Keep as far from the firework item as possible when lighting.

#### **7. USE CARE IN LIGHTING THE FIREWORKS.**

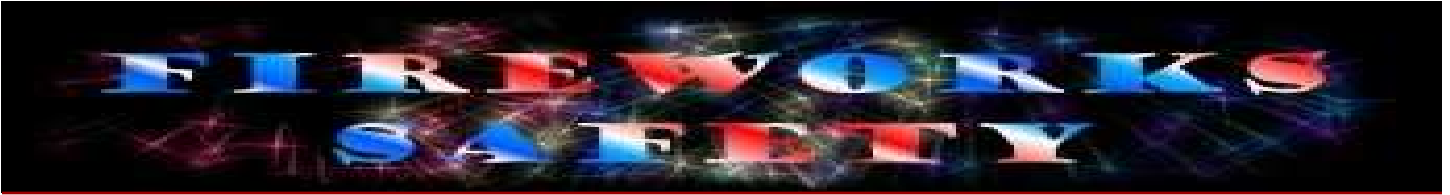
Always light fireworks products with a flare or an extended butane lighting device. This will enable you to keep as far from the firework item as possible. If needed, use a flashlight at night so the fuse can be easily seen; never use a lantern or other flame producing device near fireworks for illumination. Light the fireworks product and get away quickly. Respect the fireworks, because if used improperly, they can be dangerous.



Any additional questions may be addressed to the Fire Marshal's Office by calling 703-246-4856. A list of approved fireworks for 2008 may be viewed on the fire departments web site, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire), under Fire Marshal.





**8. ONE AT A TIME.**

Light only one firework item at a time.

**9. DON'T USE MALFUNCTIONING OR "DUD" ITEMS.**

Never attempt to re light, alter, or fix any "dud" firework item. If a firework item fails to ignite, let it stand for at least five minutes, then immerse it in water. Dispose of the item properly. You can always return the item to your dealer for replacement.

**10. HAVE WATER CLOSE BY.**

Have an accessible fire extinguisher, water supply, hose, or bucket of water nearby for emergencies. During any fireworks shoot, there should always be one individual assigned as the fireman, whose sole job is to be alert and at the ready with a water source.

**11. WINDY CONDITIONS.**

Be cautious of lighting any fireworks during strong wind conditions. The fireworks should be lit with the prevailing wind blowing away from the spectators. If there is a significant wind shift during the time you are lighting the fireworks, the shooting site should be rearranged to accommodate the wind shift or the shooting should be stopped until the windy conditions subside.

**12. USE CARE IN HANDLING FIREWORKS.**

Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or on your person. It is preferable to keep the products in a closed container before ignition. Always be careful in handling fireworks to prevent dropping them. Never smoke when handling fireworks.

**13. NEVER USE THE FIREWORKS AS WEAPONS.**

Never aim, point, or throw any fireworks at another person or at any property.

**14. STORAGE OF FIREWORKS.**

Always store fireworks in a cool, dry place and dispose of fireworks properly.

**15. USE FIREWORKS OUTDOORS.**

Never use fireworks indoors; only use them outdoors under safe conditions.

**16. PURCHASE FIREWORKS FROM RELIABLE DEALERS.**

Buy fireworks only from reliable, licensed fireworks dealers. Licensed and reliable dealers will only carry those products that meet standards set and enforced by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. Do not use illegal explosives; do not alter any firework device; do not make your own fireworks.

**17. SAFETY GLASSES.**

Safety glasses are recommended for those individuals lighting the fireworks and those individuals in close proximity to the fireworks.

**18. BE CAREFUL WITH ANIMALS.**

The noise and lights of the fireworks often frighten some animals, so it is very important that you are careful with pets and farm animals. You may want to consider moving the animals away or keeping them inside during your display. Please be considerate of your pets and animals when using fireworks.

**19. DO NOT TRANSPORT FIREWORKS ON AIRPLANES.**

It is a violation of federal aviation law to transport any fireworks device on an airplane. Please respect this law and do not attempt to carry any fireworks onto an airplane or transport them in your luggage.



# What to Do When You are Stopped by Police

## Your Safety is Important to Us!

The Police Department suggests that the actions listed in this page be taken if you are stopped by a police officer. When you follow them, your encounter with the police will likely be brief, positive and much safer for both you and the officer.

Awareness as well as involvement and cooperation are essential elements of effective policing.

### When approached by a police officer:

- Follow the officer's instructions.
- Keep your hands clearly visible.
- Make movements slowly.
- Verbally inform the officer of any weapon present and whether you possess a concealed handgun permit for it. Wait for specific instructions.
- Remain calm and do not become argumentative. Cooperation on your part can greatly reduce the time the officer detains you.

### Consider that the officer:

- May not be stopping you for the same reason that you perceive.
- Usually does not have any previous knowledge of you.
- Is trained to remain in a position that enhances his or her safety.
- Does not intend to offend you.

### When in a vehicle:

- Follow the previous instructions.
- Remain seated in the vehicle; do not get out of the vehicle unless instructed to do so.
- Keep your hands visible.
- During darkness, turn on the interior light prior to the officer approaching.
- Produce your drivers license and vehicle registration upon request.

### You may be searched:

- when arrested
- when a warrant exists
- when you have given consent.
- when probable cause to arrest exists.

Police officers may at any time request permission to search a person, vehicle or property. If permission is freely and knowingly given, the officer may conduct a search as granted.

If the police officer suspects that you may be armed, the officer is allowed to frisk you to see if you have any weapons. This procedure is to ensure the safety of everyone present.

### Remember:

There are many reasons why you might be stopped by the police. Whatever the reason, the police officer needs your cooperation. Over reaction can make the situation worse.

### Questions?

If you have any questions or comments concerning your contact with the police, please contact your local district station. A supervisor will be available to assist you.

## My Neighborhood -Internet Mapping

My Neighborhood is an Internet mapping and information reporting application. It lets you know what features and county facilities are available in and around your neighborhood. The information is broken down into logical business groups called VIEWS. Right now there are four views: General Information, Parks, Demographics, and Police Incidents. Each view has unique map types and unique reports. Map types allow you to see different layers of information about the same area. Reports contain detailed information about a specific area

To access the web site:

- <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/>
- Go to the far right side of the page, under "Quick Links"
- Click on "Incident Mapping" (the 6th one from the top)
- You should see an information sheet entitled "Police Incidents View"
- Scroll down to the bottom of that page and click the box that reads, "I have read and accepted the disclaimer above."
- You'll see "Police Incidents View" for the second time, but there is a difference,,,,, at the bottom of the page it asks you to pick an application
- Click on either "Application" and wait a couple of seconds
- Congratulations-----You're in! --- wasn't that easy :-)
- At this point I would add the page to "My Favorites."
- At the top, two dropdown boxes (side by side), select "Police Incidents"

The rest of it allows for a variety of choices depending on your need and interest.



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police)



## Community Crime Statistic *Information Line*

**(703)246-7932**

*You will receive a report based on the frequency of calls dispatched to the area of interest over the previous 12 month period.*

*You will be directed to leave your name and phone number, e-mail or mailing address. a geographical area of interest (street, subdivision, etc) Requests take 5-7 days*

*Receive a report of the number type of incidents responded to in that area; limit two reports per week.*

# Franconia Citizens Advisory Committee

## What is it?

CACs were formed at each station to work hand-in-hand with the station commander on issues confronting the district. Its purpose is to:

- provide an organized forum for direct communication between the Police Department and the community on emergencies and matters of community and/or personal concern.
- help the Police Department and the community work toward a common goal of crime prevention through citizen concern and improved police services.
- support the Police Department, where appropriate, before pertinent legislative bodies and government agencies (i.e., such as at budget hearings before the Board of Supervisors).

In addition, a Citizens' Advisory Council was established to function as a County-wide advisory body to the Chief of Police. Membership is drawn from each of the district CACs. The Council meets regularly with the Chief and command staff of the FCPD and addresses the interests and concerns of the entire county. The Council responds to and advises the police department on virtually every significant policy matter affecting police service. These groups were the early cornerstones of community policing by the FCPD. They promote harmonious police-community relations and work to improve and enhance the FCPD's ability to provide the best service to the citizens of Fairfax County.

Meetings consist of a brief information-sharing and business meeting led by the Chair. An "Officer of the Month" is recognized for his or her outstanding service followed by a presentation by someone from a department of the FCPD; previous presentations have included the K-9 unit, marine patrol, mall officers, school resource officers, animal control,

## Who is it?

Membership is open to all interested persons.

## Where is it?

Monthly meetings are held at the Franconia District Station at 6121 Franconia Road in the Helen Wilson Community Room.

## When is it?

The Franconia CAC meetings take place on the third Wednesday

If you would like more information about the CAC, please contact the Crime Prevention Office at 703-922-0889.



## ~ FRANCONIA POLICE STATION SERVICES ~

For more information regarding the following services, please contact the crime prevention office at 703-922-8263 or e-mail MPO Alice Eggers [[Alice.Eggers@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Alice.Eggers@fairfaxcounty.gov)]

### **Focus on Franconia Newsletter and Weekly Crime Report:**

If you are interested in being on our e-mail/ mailing list for the monthly *Focus on Franconia* newsletter or on the e-mail list for the Weekly Crime Report, please contact us to sign up.



### **Home/Business Security Assessments:**

Are you concerned about the safety and security of your home or business? If so, call us to schedule a free security assessment. We will make recommendations and offer suggestions on how you can better safeguard your home or business.



### **Neighborhood Watch Training:**

We will not be scheduling any more monthly training sessions at the station due to the low turnout of people. If your community is interested in receiving Neighborhood Watch training, please call us and we will schedule a time to come to your community to give the training.

**VIN Etching:** The vehicle identification number is etched into the windows of your car to help reduce the risk of vehicle theft. Please contact us to schedule an appointment.



### **Citizen's Advisory Committee**

Franconia Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Franconia District Police Station. The next scheduled meetings are Wednesday, May 16th and June 21st at 7:30 pm; social time starts at 7:00 pm. The CAC works; these meetings are very informative and help keep residents of the Franconia area aware of police

**MODIP:** The Mature Operators Driver Improvement Program is offered to residents 55 years of age and older. Sanctioned by the American Automobile Association, this 8-hour course may result in insurance premium reductions as mandated by Virginia. Classes are normally held the second Saturday at the station from 8 am to 4 pm. Fee is \$10 per person for books and materials. MODIP reservation line is 703.924.6588.

## ~ POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICES ~

### **SEXUAL ASSAULT FREE AND EMPOWERED (SAFE)**



In the US a woman is assaulted every six minutes. Three out of four women will experience at least one violent crime in their lifetimes. Could you effectively defend yourself if attacked? SAFE is a woman's self-defense program that teaches realistic self-defense tactics and techniques. The program begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance. It then progresses to the basics of hands-on defense training. To learn more about SAFE, or to register for the course, call 703.246.7806.



**Child safety seat checks by appointment at any police district station.**



*Helping victims rebuild their lives*

Serving the citizens of Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and the Towns of Herndon and Vienna.



**STOP! Aggressive Driving**

To find out more contact us at [trasaf@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:trasaf@fairfaxcounty.gov)



Franconia District Police Station  
6121 Franconia Road  
Alexandria, VA 22310